

REMARKS

Claims 27-30, 32 and 34-50 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the dependency of claim 29 has been corrected.

Also, the method limitations in claims 31 to 34 have been removed and replaced by means plus function expressions.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the rejection of claims 31 to 34 under 35 U.S.C. 112, fourth paragraph, should be withdrawn.

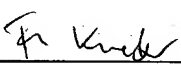
The subject matter of claims 31 and 33 has been included in claim 27.

Accordingly, inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 33 would be allowed upon being rewritten in an independent format, it is respectfully submitted that claim 27 and the claims depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 10, 2004.

By: 
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